



Alike and Different

Early Elementary Lesson Plan

Talents:

Talents are things you are really good at without having to try hard. They are special abilities that make you stand out or shine in certain areas. Talents can be different for everyone, and they can grow stronger the more you practice them!

Objective:

Students will be able to write and/or draw what makes them special and see how they are important to the class community.

Materials:

Various objects (for warm-up), strips of colored paper, markers, tape/or stapler (for Option 2).

Introduction:

Explain to students that they are going to play a game that will be a fun way to learn more about their classmates. They will learn ways they are alike and ways they are different and unique.

Warm-Up:

- Hold up various objects and ask your students how the items are alike and different. Some examples are:
 - ♦ A pen and a sheet of paper
 - ♦ Pictures of a cat and a dog
 - ♦ Striped socks and plain socks
 - ♦ A red apple and a green apple
 - ♦ A baseball cap and a sun hat

Activity Steps:

- Have students form a big circle. Ask them to listen carefully and take a big step into the circle when they hear a sentence that describes them. If it doesn't describe them, then they stay in their original spot.
- Begin with something simple: Step forward if you are wearing socks today. Allow time for students to look around and see who stepped forward. Ask students to return to their original spot.

- Continue calling different characteristics that highlight similarities and differences. After each movement, ask students who stepped forward to return to their original spot in the big circle. Here are some characteristics to get you started, but be sure to add your own!
 - ♦ Step forward if you have brown eyes.
 - ♦ Step forward if you have a brother.
 - ♦ Step forward if you have pets.
 - ♦ Step forward if you like to color.
 - ♦ Step forward if you like to play outside.
 - ♦ Step forward if you like to play basketball.
- Next, tell students they will continue learning about each other by making a link chain of their talents and interests.
- Give each student five strips of colored paper.
- Ask each student to write and/or draw something that is special about them or something they are good at on each strip of paper. For example: I can count. I am good with animals. I am a helpful big brother.
- Once all the strips are complete, put the chain together and have the students hold the chain.
- Next, discuss the individual links and some of the interesting things the class has learned about one another.
- Hang the completed chain in the classroom for the students to see!

Personal Reflection:

- What are some of your talents, interests, and skills?
- How are your talents similar to and different from those of other students?

Group Discussion:

Share with the students how all people are special in many different ways. Indicate the many talents present in this classroom. Ask: What did you learn today?

Extended Learning:

Watch and discuss a relevant YouTube video clip or TED Talk for kids. Select an age-appropriate online article, song, or book that demonstrates unique talents and using our gifts to make a difference. A few options:

It's Okay To Be Different: a virtual read along and activity from Embracing Our Differences.

Everyone's a Helper: a lesson plan from Learning for Justice.